

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claims 1-6 are allowable and that claims 14-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form (Office Action dated March 10, 2004, page 5, paragraphs 6-7).

Claims 7 and 14-16 are amended.

Claim 7 is amended to recite "a microprocessor" that is "electronically connected to receive a lens transmission value from the first light detector when the lens is disposed in the first lens holding apparatus, and a baseline transmission value from the first light detector when no lens is disposed in the first lens holding apparatus, and the microprocessor is further disposed to calculate a ratio of the lens transmission value and the baseline transmission value and the send the ratio to one or more elements selected from the group consisting of a display element and a memory unit." This amendment is supported in the specification in paragraphs 33 and 34 on pages 11-12.

Claim 14 is put into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of original claims 7 and 11. Claim 15 is put into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of original claims 7, 8, and 12. Claim 16 is put into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of original claims 7, 9, and 13.

Claims 7 and 14-16 are amended to refer consistently to a "first lens holding apparatus" rather than sometimes referring to a "first lens holding apparatus" and sometimes to a "first lens holder." Claims 14-16 are further amended to correct an inadvertent error in certain references to the first lens holding apparatus (or holder) instead of the second lens holding apparatus.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the application.

The Rejections

Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ross, III et al. (U.S. Patent 6,577,837 B2, hereafter “Ross”).

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ross in view of Chipman et al. (U.S. Patent 6,072,570, hereafter “Chipman”).

In view of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the present rejections and request reconsideration and allowance of the present claims for the following reasons.

The Invention

The present invention pertains to a method and apparatus for inexpensively, easily, and accurately measuring the light transmittance of lenses of varying power.

Applicant's Arguments

As an initial matter, claims 14-16 are now allowable because they now include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (Office Action dated March 10, 2004, page 5, paragraphs 7).

Ross teaches a method and system for inspecting ophthalmic lenses, primarily directed at soft contact lenses (Ross, col. 3, lines 54-60). Ross teaches an imaging sensor (13) to receive light after it has been transmitted through a ophthalmic lens (22) (Ross, col. 13, lines 55-62). Light at a wavelength absorbed by the lens is used to detect cosmetic flaws or deliberate toric thin zones, and other details are suppressed as unwanted information (Ross, col. 9, lines 13-26).

Chipman teaches an image quality mapper for progressive eyeglasses, including a lens positioning system for rotating the test lens and a detection system for recording image

quality (Chipman, Abstract). Chipman teaches measuring image quality especially for progressive addition eyeglass lenses (Chipman, col. 1, lines 11-15).

Neither Ross nor Chipman teaches a microprocessor, especially one that is “electronically connected to receive a lens transmission value from the first light detector when the lens is disposed in the first lens holding apparatus, and a baseline transmission value from the first light detector when no lens is disposed in the first lens holding apparatus, and the microprocessor is further disposed to calculate a ratio of the lens transmission value and the baseline transmission value and the send the ratio to one or more elements selected from the group consisting of a display element and a memory unit” as taught in claim 7 as amended. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claim 7 and dependent claims 8-13.

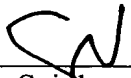
Conclusion

For the above reasons, claims 1-16 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the rejections, and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below signed attorney for the Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

GRIFFIN & SZIPL, P.C.



Joerg-Uwe Szips
Registration No. 31,799

Griffin & Szipl, P.C.
Suite PH-1
2300 Ninth Street, South
Arlington, VA 22204
Telephone: (703) 979-5700
Facsimile: (703) 979-7429
Customer No.: 24203